

NSC BRIEFING

27 April 1955

BURCHETT STATEMENTS

I. Wilfred Burchett, Communist correspondent of London Daily Worker, has made following comments on Chinese affairs:

- A. Direct US-ChiCom negotiations on any level would be "highly acceptable" to ChiComs.
- B. ChiComs have both economic and political motives--they are "hurting" economically, and "want recognition badly."
- C. Peiping will not risk war over offshore islands, as ChiComs believe they will get islands anyway.

II. Communists are using both official statements and private conversations of this type to encourage US to negotiate with ChiComs.

- A. Comm sources have failed to mention ChiCom aim, in any negotiations, of exploiting China policy differences between US and other important powers.
- B. This consideration more important to ChiComs than those Burchett mentions.
- C. No evidence that Burchett has any pipeline to Peiping, but he's probably guessed right in thinking Peiping will not undertake major military operations at least until prospects for negotiations have been assessed.